

Exhibit # VIII.A.

TO: Members of the State Board of Education

FROM: Stephen Bowen, Commissioner*

DATE: November 14, 2012

SUBJECT: Consideration of the Review Team Report Concerning the Application for Additional Degree-Granting Authorization as Submitted by the Institute for Doctoral Studies in the Visual Arts to Award the Master of Philosophy in the Visual Arts Degree

BACKGROUND: 20-A MRSA, § 10704 provides that any educational institution may confer certain degrees if it has been granted initial authority by an Act of the Legislature and subsequently seeks additional degree-granting authority through the Maine State Board of Education.

The Institute for Doctoral Studies in the Visual Arts, located in Portland, Maine, was initially granted degree-granting authority by an act of the Legislature in 2006. Officials from the Institute submitted an application seeking additional degree-granting authority to confer the degree of Master of Philosophy in the Visual Arts. The application calls for the institute to continue to be based in Portland, with instructional sites located in Tuscany (Italy), Paris, Venice, Berlin, and in New York City. A program approval visit with the applicant was conducted on the Husson University campus in Bangor on June 21, 2012. Following the program review a report was prepared which includes the review team findings as well as a recommendation for State Board action. The Review Team's Report of Findings was distributed to Board members during the September 13, 2012 meeting.

RECOMMENDATION: That the State Board of Education accept the Review Team report and approve the request for degree authorization from the Institute for Doctoral Studies in the Visual Arts to confer the additional degree of Master of Philosophy in the Visual Arts.

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